

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to an Appeal Brief filed on March 12, 2010, and an Examiner-Initiated Interview on June 21, 2010.

Response to Amendment

2. In view of examiner's amendments, claims 29-32 and 35-37 have been amended, and claim 33 has been canceled.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

Claims 29-32 and 34-37 have been examined and are allowed (renumbered 1-8).

Examiner's Amendments

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

5. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Shifren, David E. (Registration No. 59,329), and Mr. Lewis, William E. (Registration No. 39,274) on June 21, 2010, to put the claims in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 33 is canceled. Claims 29-32 and 35-37 are amended as follows:

29. (Currently amended) Apparatus for customizing a control of a user-interface of an existing application comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor, coupled to the memory operative to: (i) record a procedure description comprising a series of actions performed by a user in the existing application user-interface; and (ii) in response to the recording operation, customizing the control of the user-interface of the existing application by installing a user-interface control specific to the procedure description in the existing application for automatic execution of the procedure description and generation of the series of actions performed by the user when the user-interface control is activated;

wherein the operation of installing the control relating to the procedure description in the existing application comprises the steps of:

sending a request to an operating system from a control installer to install the control;

creating and installing the control in the existing application user-interface through the operating system; and

registering a callback at the operating system using a location supplied by the control installer.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the operation of recording a procedure description performed by a user in the existing application user-interface comprises the steps of:

transmitting at least one request for application user-interface structure information from a procedure capturer to ~~[[an]]~~ the operating system; and

receiving the application user-interface structure information from the operating system at the procedure capturer.

31. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the operation of recording a procedure description performed by the user in the existing application user-interface comprises the step of registering ~~[[the]]~~ a procedure capturer with the operating system to receive notification of user actions and system actions.

32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the operation of recording a procedure description performed by the user in the existing application user-interface comprises the steps of:

receiving notification of user action within the existing application interface at [[the]] a procedure capturer;

determining a result activated by user action at the procedure capturer;

mapping the activated control into a generic description at the procedure capturer;

adding the generic description to a procedure representation at the procedure capturer;

determining if there are more user actions; and

storing the procedure representation in the procedure capturer if there are no more user actions.

33. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the operation of installing the user-interface control further comprises the step of altering the appearance of at least one existing user interface control.

36. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture, stored in one or more memory devices, for customizing a control of a user-interface of an existing application comprising computer executable instructions to perform the steps of:

recording a procedure description comprising a series of actions performed by a user in the existing application user-interface; and

in response to the recording step, customizing the control of the user-interface of the existing application by installing a user-interface control specific to the procedure description in the existing application for automatic execution of the procedure description and generation of the series of actions performed by the user when the user-interface control is activated;

wherein the step of installing the control relating to the procedure description in the existing application comprises the steps of:

sending a request to an operating system from a control installer to install the control;

creating and installing the control in the existing application user-interface through the operating system; and

registering a callback at the operating system using a location supplied by the control installer.

37. (Currently amended) A method for customizing a control of a user-interface of an existing application comprising the steps of:

recording a procedure description comprising a series of actions performed by a user in the existing application user-interface; and

in response to the recording step, customizing the control of the user-interface of the existing application by installing a user-interface control specific to the procedure description in the existing application for automatic execution of the procedure description and generation of the series of actions performed by the user when the user-interface control is activated;

wherein the recoding and customizing steps are implemented via one or more software components that are loaded from a memory and executed by a processor device;

wherein the step of installing the control relating to the procedure description in the existing application comprises the steps of:

sending a request to an operating system from a control installer to install the control;

creating and installing the control in the existing application user-interface through the operating system; and

registering a callback at the operating system using a location supplied by the control installer.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As Applicants pointed out in the Appeal Brief, the combination of Wolfman and Huang does not disclose and/or fairly suggest at least claimed limitations recited in such manners in claim 33 *"wherein the operation of installing the control relating to the procedure description in the existing application comprises the steps of: sending a request to an operating system from a control installer to install the control; creating and installing the control in the existing application user-interface through the operating system; and registering a callback at the operating system using a location supplied by the control installer"* (pp. 13-14).

These claimed limitations are not present in the prior art of record and would not have been obvious, thus all pending claims are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thuy (Twee) Dao, whose telephone/fax numbers are (571) 272 8570 and (571) 273 8570, respectively. The examiner can normally be reached on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached at (571) 272 3695.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Thuy Dao/ (Twee)
Examiner, Art Unit 2192